production climbed steadily during past three decades at 76 million tonnes but production has dropped by 1.1 million tonnes per-year and average yield since 2000 has been 70 million tonnes. If the trend continues, India may not be able to meet projected demand of 109 million tonnes for the year 2020. We should not be complacent. According to scientists in States of Northern Gangetic plains improper use of fertilizers had led to wide-spread deficiency of micronutrients such as zinc, magnesium and sulphur elements that are crucial for successful plant growth. Farmers in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. have tended to use excess of urea, ignoring need for other micronutrients and the continued use of urea, year after year, has depleted micronutrients on farmland. If micronutrients level drops critical level, urea will not be able to boost crop yield. Besides, climatic change also is the reason for drop in production. Wheat yields have also remained stuck because new high-yielding varieties are not available to the farmers. Also other economic factors have pushed farmers away from wheat as input costs of water-pumping, fertilizers and pesticides have gone up whereas minimum support price remained static. I will request the Government to have a thorough study conducted into the problems of scarcity of wheat production by an Expert Committee which should also suggest measures for boosting up wheat production so that India's food security may not be at stake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up the remaining Special Mentions at 2 o' clock after the Railway Budget is laid. The House is adjourned till 2.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled at two of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 2006-07

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Railway Budget. Shri Lalu Prasadji.

रेल मंत्री (श्री लालू प्रसाद): महोदय, मैं 2006-2007 के वर्ष के लिए रेलवे के संबंध में

भारत सरकार की अनुमानित प्राप्तियों और व्यय का विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूं।

SPECIAL MENTIONS-*Contd.*

Need to issue Commemorating stamps and coins on The 150th Year of First Armed Struggle for India's Independence

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, my Special Mention pertaining to commemorating the 150th Year of the First armed struggle for India's Independence.

I rise to call upon this House to recall the historic first armed struggle against the British imperialism that shook the British Empire in 1857. A few historians call it is as 'Sepoy Mutiny' and describe it as revolt of a section of Indian soldiers. In reality, it was the first struggle for India's Independence. Let us not forget that most of the Indian soldiers were from the exploited sections of the society, who witnessed the real face of imperialism as the highest form of capitalist exploitation. To pay homage to the martyrs of the first anti-imperialist struggle for India's Independence in a befitting manner, in its 150th year in 2007, I call upon the Government to issue commemorative stamps and special coins. I also urge upon the Government to spread the message anti-imperialism throughout the country. In our era, when the entire world is under renewed threat of imperialism, we must take lessons from the historic struggle of 1857 and build up a strong opinion against the imperialism to save sovereignty and Independence of the country.

Need to Provide Adequate Facilities and Safety Standards at Alang Ship-breaking Yard

DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO (Nominated): Sir, the toxic-laden French ship, Clemenceau, created furore which could have been easily avoided had the Government become little more farsighted and sensitive to the environmental sustainability and the human rights of the unorganised work force at the ship-breaking industry in Alang. It is an